

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application Serial No. 09/552,715
Attorney Docket No. Q58947

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present Amendment, claims 1-3, 5-12 and 14-24 are all the claims pending in the application. Independent claims 1 and 12 are presently amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 25 and ²⁶~~25~~, respectively. Claims 25 and 26 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

To summarize the Office Action, claims 12, 14-16, 19-20, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by DuNah et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,420,761, hereinafter “DuNah”); claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-11, 21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DuNah in view of Kalmanash (U.S. Patent No. 5,532,852); claims 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DuNah in view of Ishii et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,710,856, hereinafter “Ishii”); and claims 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DuNah and Kalmanash, further in view of Ishii. Additionally, the Examiner objected to claims 25 and 26 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the respective base claims and any intervening claims.

Dealing with preliminary matters first, Applicant notes that the Examiner has not indicated acceptance of the drawings filed on May 8, 2000. The Examiner is therefore requested to indicate acceptance of these drawings in the next action.

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicant notes that claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 25. Therefore, claim 1 is believed in condition for allowance at least by virtue of reciting the subject matter of objected to claim 25.

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Similarly, claim 12 is amended to recite the subject matter of objected to claim 26. Claim 12 is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance at least by virtue of reciting the subject matter of claim 26. Further, dependent claims 2-11 and 13-24 are believed to be allowable at least by virtue of depending from independent claims 1 and 12, respectively. Therefore, allowance of claims 1-24 is requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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